

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for producing a gas cushion for supporting a preheated glass sheet (2), with a chamber (7) connected to a source (21) of compressed gas, the upper wall (10) of which chamber is adapted in its external dimensions to the outline of the glass sheet (2) and has a plurality of apertures (15) for the passage of gas, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the apertures are designed as nozzles (14), which have an entry bore (22) as well as a progressively widening exit hole (16), and that the upper wall (10) of the chamber (7) has a greater degree of perforation (sum of the nozzle exit areas (15) in relation to the total area of the respective zone (11; 12; 13)) in its edge zones (12, 13) than in its central zone (11).

2. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the central zone (11) of the upper wall (10) of the chamber (9) roughly corresponds in the magnitude of its area to the sum of the edge zones (12, 13).

3. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1 ~~or 2, characterised in that~~ wherein the ratio of the degree of perforation in the central zone (11) of the upper wall (10) of the chamber (7) to the degree of perforation in the edge zones (12, 13) amounts to approx. 0.5 to 0.9, preferably approx. 0.7 – 0.8.

4. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3,~~ claim 1, wherein the upper wall (10) of the chamber (7) has a degree of perforation of at most approx. 0.3, preferably less than 0.25, in its central zone (11).

5. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4,~~
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the upper wall (40) of the chamber (7) has a greater
degree of perforation in the edge zones (12) of its longer sides than in the edge zones (13)
of its shorter sides.

6. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5,~~
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the degree of perforation of the upper wall (40) of the
chamber (7) diminishes from the feed side for the glass sheet (2) to the opposite side.

7. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6,~~
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the entry bore (22) of at least one of the nozzles (14)
widens at least once abruptly in the direction of flow.

8. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein the entry bore of the nozzles (14) has a first section with a diameter of approx. 2 to
4 mm, preferably of approx. 3 mm, as well as a second section (18) with a diameter of
approx. 20 mm, whereby the exit hole (16) follows on from the latter.

9. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein the entry bore of the nozzles (14) has a third section (19) with a diameter of approx.
10 mm between the first and second section (17, 18).

10. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 9, characterised in that
wherein at least the first, the second and the third section (17, 18, 19) are formed
cylindrically, preferably with a coinciding cylinder axis.

11. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10,~~
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the upper wall (10) of the chamber (7) is covered by a
thin porous cloth (20) made of heat-resistant material.

12. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 11, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein the cloth (20) is made of heat-conductive material, preferably of corrosion-resistant
steel (stainless steel).

13. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12,~~
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the chamber (7) is made of ceramic material.

14. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 13, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein the chamber (7) is designed as a one-piece moulding.

15. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the chamber (7) is provided with heating elements.